What is claimed is:

1. An imaging device comprising:

a zoom lens system having a plurality of lens units and forming an optical image of an object so as to continuously optically zoom by varying distances between the lens unit; and

an image sensor converting the optical image formed by the zoom lens system to an electric signal,

wherein the zoom lens system comprises from an object side:

a first lens unit being overall negative and including a reflecting surface that bends a luminous flux substantially 90 degrees; and

a second lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the first lens unit, and having a negative optical power.

2. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first lens unit includes a right-angle prism having an internal reflecting surface as the reflecting surface.

3. An imaging device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$Np \geqq 1.55$

where Np is a refractive index to a d-line of the right-angle prism.

4. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1, the zoom lens system further comprises,

a third lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the second lens unit, and having a positive optical power,

a fourth lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the third lens unit, and having a positive optical power.

5. An imaging device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the zoom lens system consists of said first through fourth lens units.

6. An imaging device as claimed in claim 4, the zoom lens system further comprising:

a fifth lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the fourth lens unit.

7. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1,wherein, the first lens unit is fixed with respect to the image plane in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

8. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1,wherein, the second lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

9. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1,wherein the zoom lens system has not more than two lens elements disposed on the object side of the reflecting surface.

10. An imaging device as claimed in claim 9,wherein the zoom lens system has only one lens element disposed on the object side of the reflecting surface.

11. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills

the following condition:

$$0.5 < |f1/f2| < 5$$

where f1 is the focal length of the first lens unit and f2 is the focal length of the second lens unit.

12. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$1.5 < |f12w| / fw < 4$$

where f12w is the composite focal length of the first lens unit and the second lens unit in the shortest focal length condition and fw is the overall focal length of the lens system in the shortest focal length condition.

13. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$0.4 < |f12w| / f3 < 1.5$$

where f12w is the composite focal length of the first lens unit and the second lens unit in the shortest focal length condition and f3 is the focal length of the third lens unit.

14. An imaging device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$1.0 < D / fw < 2.6$$

where D represents an axial distance between surface at the most object side surface of the first lens unit and reflection surface; and fw represents a focal length of the entire zoom lens system in a wide angle condition.

15. A camera comprising:

an imaging device having a zoom lens system a plurality of lens units and forming an optical image of an object so as to continuously optically zoom by varying distances between the lens unit and an image sensor converting the optical image formed by the zoom lens system to an electric signal,

wherein the zoom lens system comprises from an object side:

a first lens unit being overall negative and including a reflecting surface that bends a luminous flux substantially 90 degrees; and

a second lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the first lens unit, and having a negative optical power.

16. A camera as claimed in claim 15, wherein the first lens unit includes a right-angle prism having an internal reflecting surface as the reflecting surface.

17. A camera as claimed in claim 15, the zoom lens system further comprises,

a third lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the second lens unit, and having a positive optical power,

a fourth lens unit disposed with a variable air distance from the third lens unit, and having a positive optical power.

18. A camera as claimed in claim 15,wherein, the first lens unit is fixed with respect to the image plane in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

19. A camera as claimed in claim 15,wherein, the second lens unit moves so as to draw a locus of a U-turn convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length

condition to the longest focal length condition.

20. A camera as claimed in claim 15,wherein the zoom lens system has not more than two lens elements disposed on the object side of the reflecting surface.

21. A camera as claimed in claim 15, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$0.5 < |f1/f2| < 5$$

where f1 is the focal length of the first lens unit and f2 is the focal length of the second lens unit.

22. A camera as claimed in claim 15, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$1.5 < |f12w| / fw < 4$$

where f12w is the composite focal length of the first lens unit and the second lens unit in the shortest focal length condition and fw is the overall focal length of the lens system in the shortest focal length condition.

23. A camera as claimed in claim 15, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$0.4 < |f12w| /f3 < 1.5$$

where f12w is the composite focal length of the first lens unit and the second lens unit in the shortest focal length condition and f3 is the focal length of the third lens unit.

24. A camera as claimed in claim 15, wherein the zoom lens system fulfills the following condition:

$$1.0 < D / fw < 2.6$$

where D represents an axial distance between surface at the most object side surface of the first lens unit and reflection surface; and fw represents a focal length of the entire zoom lens system in a wide angle condition.